

ANALYSIS OF THE PERIODICITY OF VAGINAL
BLEEDING PATTERNS (TIME SERIES AND
PRINCIPAL COMPONENT APPLICATIONS)

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Commonly used artificial contraceptive methods are more or less likely to disrupt the normal menstrual cycle in varying degrees. Disturbances of menstruation are the major determinants both of acceptability and the continuation of any artificial contraceptive. In this study, menstrual bleeding data is analysed to study the changes in bleeding patterns caused by the use of different contraceptives in order to provide information on the use of such contraceptive methods. The method of analysis is developed by extending the Pochobradsky's time series approach (1970), to study women's menstrual bleeding patterns. The scope of the work is confined to three methods of contraception. These are namely, Intra-Uterine Device (IUD), Vaginal Ring (VR) and natural methods. But the same technique can be extended to examine any method of contraception. The proposed method of analysis includes Multivariate and Time series approaches.

A set of data from WHO was used to illustrate how the proposed technique works. This appears to be more appropriate than the conventional summary measures in analysing the menstrual bleeding patterns.

References:

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